

**SWOG
SAN JUAN
COUNTY**

Planning/update
meeting

Date: Wednesday January 14th 2004

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: San Juan County Commissioners room

Members Present;

Bruce Adams (LOREP)
Todd Black (USU CCES)
Leroy Mead (DWR)
Steve Madson (UTBLM)
Laura Romin (USFWS)
Jim Spencer (NRCS)
Guy Wallace (UDWR)
Tammy Wallace (BLM)
Sharon Ward (USU)

Information Presented

- Conservation plan revisions-corrections and final printing. US fish and wildlife Service has requested an update for 2003. The group decided to have update on plan report every two years. Next report will be compiled after this year.
- Research updates—2 additional male juveniles were collared in the roaring area. A total of 15 birds are collared now—some of the batteries are likely to go off this spring/summer. The one lost male from last year appears to migrate south as he was recently located just north of highway 666 east of the Vega Canyon. More trapping will occur this spring
- Rangewide updates---dates pushed back for range wide plan from March to a later date in June 2004. Main issues are CCA issues. Group continues to work on plan strategies.
- Conservation easement updates—BLM finalized the easement with Clay Pearson and paid him. Total acres were 320. This easement excludes spring grazing, limited use levels on grazing possibly no grazing on drought years. Jerry Hines is not interested in an easement but more along the lines of selling the property. The land was appraised at 320.00/ acre. TNC and Sue are working with him to do this. TNC will then have an easement on it. It is being discussed

keeping it as a non-grazed easement. The issues are keeping it in Green Belt status. A letter of support was written from the County to the Utah Quality Growth to endorse their support. Next plans are to talk with Daryl Sinner to discuss plans and future options with him. Roaring's don't want to do a long term easement but would be interested in a long term lease.—TNC is working with State Legislatures for direct funding and appropriations for sage grouse 500K/year.—State office BLM could end up with 1-1.5 million this year for sage grouse.—Seed collection, seed was collected during the first part of September to collect sage brush seed for plantings they collected over 50 pounds of Wyoming and big sage brush. The seed was cleaned and then taken to Lone Peak Nursery for use on this project.

- Other updates—Bruce Adams easement was re-seeded this fall.
- Statewide updates—working with other species. Does not really affect us here.
- Other issues—new tech, new graduate student for the project. Future research needs—what would we like to look at—1-production 2-landscape issues tying in isolated patches of habitat is there an effective size of patches (size, shape, composition, age class) the big question is are we creating habitat that is going to provide for the grouse. Is what we are doing now going to sustain and help the population or do we need more, less what? Some serious questions to consider. Possible PhD student for this research effort.

Other Business—adamsbb2003@yahoo.com

Discussion Highlights

- Adams conservation easement Forage Kochia seedings

Actions Taken

- Guy update lek count information from 2003.
- Tammy update on BLM easement for 2003
- Sharon update on birds
- Don Andrews to give report on range trend conditions and drought report for 2003. This was a potential threat.

- Todd to check with Dean to see if he compiled last years report to USFWS Terry Ireland
- Todd to work on pinyon juniper map from highway 666 north to BLM property north of Butts.
- Don Andrews to get re-seed mixture and lbs per acre on Bruce Adams Easement.
- Todd to send Steve Madson original conservation plan.

Follow-up Needed

- Todd to Get with Mike and Kevin to discuss mock nest sites and cameras after nesting season. See 10/15/2003 meeting minutes.